

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-23. (canceled)

24. (new) A spool for winding-up an adhesive carrier tape of a packaging taped bag chain in an apparatus for taking up a succession of packaging bags, the spool comprising a core with a core surface and walls forming a race where turns of tape are wound-up, characterized in that the core surface comprises resilient means for releasing a radial pressure acting on the turns of tape that have been wound-up first.

25. (new) The spool according to claim 24, wherein said resilient means comprise at least one resilient projecting tongue.

26. (new) The spool according to claim 25, wherein a plurality of equally-spaced resilient projecting tongues are provided on the core surface.

27. (new) The spool according to claim 25, wherein said at least one tongue is substantially tangent to the core surface.

28. (new) The spool according to claim 25, wherein said at least one tongue is inclined at an acute angle with respect to a tangent to the spool surface.

29. (new) The spool according to claim 25 wherein said at least one tongue is moulded with the core surface or a part thereof.

30. (new) The spool according to claim 25, wherein the core surface comprises cavities at the base of said at least one tongue.

31. (new) The spool according to claim 24, wherein said resilient means comprise a continuous liner of a resilient material.

32. (new) The spool according to claim 31, wherein said resilient material comprises a material selected from the group consisting of rubber and foamed plastic material.

33. (new) A spool assembly for winding-up at least two adhesive carrier tapes of a packaging taped bag chain in an apparatus for taking up a succession of packaging bags, the spool assembly comprising at least two spools, each spool comprising a core with a core surface and walls forming a race where turns of tape are wound-up, wherein the core surface comprises resilient means for releasing a radial pressure acting on the turns of tape that have been wound up first.

34. (new) The spool assembly according to claim 33, wherein the spool assembly comprises a differential gear unit positioned between said at least two spools, said differential gear unit being adapted to be, in use, removably connectable to a shaft of a bag loader whereby the at least two adhesive carrier tapes can be wound up on said spools with equal tension.

35. (new) The spool assembly according to claim 34, wherein each of said spools has a recess in a surface which faces the other spool and wherein said differential gear unit is positioned in said recess.

36. (new) The spool assembly according to claim 34, wherein each of said at least two spools is integrally formed with a bevel gear coaxial with said spool.

37. (new) The spool assembly according to claim 36, wherein said differential gear unit comprises a core and at least one satellite pinion gear attached to said core and positioned to mesh with each bevel gear.

38. (new) The spool assembly according to claim 37, wherein said differential gear unit core comprises a mating hole for mating with a shaft of a bag loader.

39. (new) The spool assembly according to claim 34, wherein it is contained in a housing, thus providing a cassette.

40. (new) An apparatus for taking up a succession of imbricated packaging bags carried by at least two carrier tapes, said apparatus comprising at least two carrier tape winding spools positioned coaxially with one another; and a differential gear unit positioned between said spools, said differential gear unit being adapted to be, in use, removably connectable to a shaft of a bag loader whereby two carrier tapes can be wound up on said spools with equal tension, wherein the spools each comprise a core with a core surface and walls forming a race where turns of tape are wound-up, wherein the core surface comprises resilient means for releasing a radial pressure acting on the turns of tape that have been wound up first.

41. (new) The apparatus according to claim 40, wherein each of said spools has a recess in a surface which faces the other spool and wherein said differential gear unit is positioned in said recesses.

42. (new) The apparatus according to claim 40, wherein each of said spools is integrally formed with a bevel gear coaxial with said spool.

43. (new) The apparatus according to claim 42, wherein said differential gear unit comprises a core and at least one satellite pinion gear attached to said core and positioned to mesh with each bevel gear.

44. (new) The apparatus according to claim 43, wherein said differential gear unit core comprises a mating hole for mating with a shaft of a bag loader.

45. (new) The apparatus according to claim 40, wherein said spools and differential gear unit are housed in a cassette